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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2014

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Note

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/63, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011 and 67/71 of 3 December 2012,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 61/98, the General Assembly adopted additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/68/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2014:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2014, namely from 7 to 25 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the 2014 substantive session

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2014 at United Nations Headquarters at its 336th plenary meeting, on 20 November 2013 (see A/CN.10/PV.336). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2014 substantive session in accordance with the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 68/63. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, Chair of its 2014 session. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for the 2014 substantive session.

3. At its 337th meeting, on 7 April 2014, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session (A/CN.10/L.72), which reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/68/42).

4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

7. Other business.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2014/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 25 April 2014. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.337-342). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2014 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia)

Vice-Chairs:

Representatives of Austria, Brazil, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Romania, Republic of Korea and Senegal

Rapporteur:

Peter Winkler (Germany)

7. Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) continued to serve as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4. Knut Langeland (Norway) continued to serve as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 337th to 340th meetings, on 7 and 8 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.337-340). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria (in its national capacity and on behalf of the Group of African States), Norway, Oman (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At its 337th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Deputy Secretary-General.

10. In accordance with the decision taken at its 2012 substantive session, the Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Working Group I held eight meetings, from 9 to 24 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Working Group II held 10 meetings, from 10 to 24 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General pertaining to the documentation submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission at its 2014 substantive session (A/CN.10/208).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted and considered:

(a) Working paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.4);

(b) Working paper submitted by Iraq on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.5);

(c) Working paper submitted by Mexico (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.6).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 342nd plenary meeting, on 25 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted by consensus the reports of its subsidiary bodies and the conclusions contained therein. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted, by consensus, its report to be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 337th meeting, on 7 April 2014, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its 2014 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.72) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group, chaired by Naif bin Bandar Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia), held eight meetings, from 9 to 24 April 2014. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive discussions on agenda item 4.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 9 April 2014, the Chair circulated a working paper dated 1 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.2), which served as a basis for discussions.

5. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 11 April, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's paper dated 10 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/CRP.1).

6. At the 4th meeting, on 15 April, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised paper dated 14 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.1).

7. At the 5th meeting, on 17 April, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised paper dated 16 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/CRP.1/Rev.2).

8. At the 6th and 7th meetings, on 22 April, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the working paper dated 17 April 2014 submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3).

9. At the 8th meeting, on 24 April, the Chair circulated a revised working paper dated 24 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3/Rev.1).

10. Following the discussions of the Working Group, the Chair concluded that there was no consensus on working paper A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3/Rev.1 and decided to circulate the paper under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

11. The following documents were presented to Working Group I:

(a) Working paper submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.2);

(b) Working paper submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3);

(c) Working paper submitted by the Chair (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.3/Rev.1);

(d) Working paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.4);

(e) Working paper submitted by Iraq on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.5);

(f) Working paper submitted by Mexico (A/CN.10/2014/WG.I/WP.6).

12. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

13. At its 8th meeting, on 24 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. It also decided to make the documents listed in paragraph 11 above available to the Commission at its 2015 substantive session.

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 337th meeting, on 7 April 2014, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2014 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.72) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

2. The Working Group, under the chairmanship of Knut Langeland (Norway), held 10 meetings between 10 and 24 April 2014. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 10 April 2014, the Working Group took up the Chair's previous working paper, dated 18 April 2013 (A/CN.10/2013/WG.II/WP.2), circulated at the 2013 substantive session of the Commission, and completed a reading of the text.

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 14 April, the Chair circulated a non-paper dated 11 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1) based on his previous working paper and taking into account written and oral proposals made by delegations. The Chair's non-paper was presented under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation in order to facilitate discussions. Also at its 3rd meeting, the Working Group began a reading of the Chair's non-paper.

5. At the 4th meeting, on 14 April, the Chair circulated his non-paper, taking into account some additional comments and proposals made by delegations at the 3rd meeting, and the Working Group completed the reading of the Chair's non-paper.

6. At the 5th meeting, on 16 April, the Chair circulated a revised version of his non-paper, dated 16 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.1), on the basis of which the Working Group engaged in discussions and consultations.

7. At the 6th meeting, on 21 April, the Chair circulated a second revised version of his non-paper, dated 17 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.2), based on his previous text and taking into account written and oral proposals made by delegations.

8. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 21 and 23 April, delegations made various proposals and exchanged views on the basis of the Chair's second revised non-paper.

9. At the 9th meeting, on 23 April, the Chair circulated a third revised version of his non-paper, dated 23 April 2014 (A/CN.10/2014/WG.II/CRP.1/Rev.3), under his own responsibility, on the basis of which the Working Group engaged in discussions and consultations.

10. At its 10th meeting, on 24 April, the Working Group was unable to achieve consensus on the Chair's third revised non-paper.

11. The Working Group was informed that the Chair's third revised non-paper would be issued as a working paper under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

12. At the same meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

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